

To: Madigan, Andrea[Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov]
Cc: Gibbons, Melissa[Gibbons.Melissa@epa.gov]; robert.yalen@USDOJ.GOV[robert.yalen@USDOJ.GOV]; Pencak, Erica (ENRD)[Erica.Pencak@usdoj.gov]; Alan.Tenenbaum@usdoj.gov[Alan.Tenenbaum@usdoj.gov]; Onozawa, Tomoko (USANYS)[Tomoko.Onozawa@usdoj.gov]; Dean Brockbank[db@g-etg.com]
From: Marc Weinreich
Sent: Tue 8/4/2015 4:10:55 PM
Subject: Multistate Trust: Your Invitation: Red Mountain Heritage Celebration August 22

Andrea,

Thought you'd be interested in seeing the announcement for the event that has already been planned celebrating the purchase and donation of the Red Mountain mining claims to the Forest Service and the Historical Society.

I've provided your contact information to both Joel Benson, legal counsel for Ryan Bennett (the San Juan County claims), and Pat Willits, legal counsel for the Trust for Land Restoration (the donor of the Ouray County claims). Pat is traveling this week and will be giving you a call first thing Monday morning.

Let me know if you have any follow-up questions.

Best,
Marc
Marc Weinreich, Vice President
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From: Pat Willits <willits@independence.net>
Date: Monday, August 3, 2015 at 1:55 PM
To: <undisclosed-recipients:;>
Subject: Your Invitation: Red Mountain Heritage Celebration August 22

*The Ouray County Historical Society
The San Juan County Historical Society
and
The Trust for Land Restoration*

invite you to please join us

for the

Red Mountain Heritage Celebration

Saturday, August 22, 2015 | 10:00am

As an extension of the Red Mountain Project, the Trust for Land Restoration (TLR) has facilitated the purchase of 120 mining claims on both sides of Red Mountain Pass. These include the historic Silverton Railroad's Corkscrew Gulch turntable. The event begins at 10 am at the Red Mountain Mining Interpretive Overlook across from the Idarado Mine on Hwy 550 ten miles south of Ouray and just north of MP 82. Short presentations on the history of the area, the Red Mountain Project, the role of TLR in these acquisitions and a celebration of the mining claim purchases will take place, followed by guided tours of the American Girl Mine and the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable.



PRESS RELEASE

8/3/15

Contact:

Don Paulson; Ouray County Historical Society (970) 325-4576

Pat Willits; the Trust for Land Restoration (970) 626-3236

Bob Risch; the Red Mountain Project (970) 325-4205

Public Ceremony at Red Mountain Overlook Will Celebrate Mining Claims Purchase

The public is invited to celebrate a major mining claims acquisition and donation project that will preserve historic sites and landscapes in Ouray and San Juan Counties. The Red Mountain Heritage Celebration will take place at the scenic Red Mountain Mining Interpretive Overlook on Highway 550, Saturday, August 22 at 10 a.m. Guided tours of several of the newly acquired claims

will begin at 11 am.

The event will include brief presentations on the history of the Red Mountain Mining District and the role of the Ridgway-based Trust for Land Restoration (TLR), which has facilitated the recent purchase of 120 mining claims, which will be preserved for their scenic beauty and historical significance.

Bob Risch, Chair of the Red Mountain Task Force and current TLR Board Member, will describe the goals and accomplishments of the Red Mountain Project. Don Paulson, curator of the Ouray County Historical Museum, will describe the history of the Red Mountain District.

Following a ceremonial exchange of deeds, Paulson and Risch will guide short tours of the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable and the American Girl Mine.

The ceremony also will unveil the newly revitalized TLR, an established local land trust whose mission is to conserve and protect significant scenic and historic landscapes and sites in the San Juan Mountains.

TLR acquired sixteen mining claims in Ouray County with the help of the Toan-O'Brien Foundation, a private foundation based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Silverton-resident Ryan Bennett acquired the remaining 104, all located in San Juan County.

TLR will donate fourteen of the mining claims to the United States Forest Service, and donate two of the claims to the Ouray County Historical Society. Bennett will retain ownership of the 104 claims he acquired. He voluntarily imposed deed restrictions on those properties to allow for future mining but restrict residential development.

The two claims being donated to the historical society include historically significant sites of the Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad grade and ruins of the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable. It is reputed to be the only turntable in the country ever built on the main line of a railroad, according to Paulson.

"The Silverton Railroad's Corkscrew Gulch Turntable is an icon of railroading in Southwestern, Colorado," he said. "It was built in 1889 by Otto Mears, the Pathfinder of the San Juan. The Ouray County Historical Society's Board of Directors is proud to take ownership of and protect this historic site for the enjoyment generations to come."

The opportunity arose from the largest (over \$5 billion) environmental contamination settlement in U.S. history and a court-ordered sale. Tronox Corporation, the polluter's spin-off company, held contaminated sites throughout the country.

Fortunately the sites being acquired in Ouray and San Juan Counties were evaluated and found to be clean, according to Willits.

"This is a great deal for the public on both sides of Red Mountain Pass," said Pat Willits, TLR's acquisition of the mining claims is a first step in the organization's effort to carry on and expand the legacy of the Red Mountain Project.

Under the leadership of Risch, the Red Mountain Project in 1998 began a public-private partnership

with stakeholders in the San Juan Mountains, which eventually acquired more than 10,000 acres of mining claims in Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel Counties and returned them to the public domain.

“TLR is proud up the reins of the Red Mountain Project, re-engage our friends and partners, and develop new alliances” said Willits. “This is a great project which furthers our mission to conserve and protect the places we cherish and hold dear in the San Juan Mountain-high country. This project certainly helps do that.”

The public can learn more about this important land acquisition and enjoy spectacular mountain scenery at the Red Mountain Heritage Celebration. The Interpretive Overlook is located across from the Idarado Mine on Highway 550, ten miles south of Ouray and just north of Milepost 82. Elected officials and community leaders are expected to attend. For more information, call the Ouray County Historical Society, (970) 325-4576.

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